

Message Text

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43

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SSO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1311

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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ADDIS ABABA FOR REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ZA, US

SUBJECT: ZCTU ACCUSES AALC OF INTERFERING IN PROPOSED MINING
SAFETY CONFERENCE

1. TIMES OF ZAMBIA MARCH 5 CARRIES ON FRONT PAGE STATE-
MENT BY ZAMBIA CONGRESSOF TRADE UNION GENERAL SECRETARY
NEWSTEAD ZIMBA RE HIS ORGANIZATION'S DECISION TO CANCEL
OFFER TO HOST ALL-AFRICAN MINERS TRADE UNIONS SEMINAR ON
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR MINERS BECAUSE OF
"FOREIGN INTERFERENCE." ZIMBA QUOTED AS SAYING THAT
SEMINAR, WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN HELD NEXT MONTH IN KITWE
UNDER SPONSORSHIP OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN LABOR CENTER,
WAS CANCELLED AFTER AALC OBJECTED
TO PROPOSED ATTENDANCE
BY PARTICIPANTS FROM CONGO (B). ZIMBA SAID THAT HE
TOLD AALC REP LES TRACHTMAN DURING MEETING IN KITWE
THAT AS HOST COUNTRY ZAMBIA WAS NOT PREPARED TO BE
"BULLDOZED" BY OVERSEAS SPONSORS. "NO OUTSIDER HAS
RIGHT TO COME AND TELL US WHO ARE OUR FRIENDS
AND WHO ARE OUR ENEMIES," ZIMBA SAID. HE
REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT ZCTU DID NOT UNDERSTAND
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MOTIVE BEHIND AALC REJECTION OF CONGOLESE DELEGATION.

2. TIMES OF ZAMBIA TELEPHONED USIS THIS MORNING TO ASK IF US HAS ANY REACTION TO ZIMBA STATEMENT. WE PLAN TO INFORM TIMES A) THAT USG WAS NOT PARTY TO AALC-ZCTU DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THIS EMINAR AND THAT MATTER IS ENTIRELY BETWEEN THOSE TWO GROUPS; B) ON BACKGROUND ONLY BASIS, THAT IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT MATTER IN DISPUTE WAS NOT INVITATION TO CONGOLESE TO ATTEND SEMINAR (ALTHOUGH ORIGINAL AALC PROPOSAL HAD LIMITED SEMINAR PARTICIPATION TO ANGLOPHONE COUNTRIES PLUS ZAIRE) BUT RATHER UNWILLINGNESS OF AALC TO FUND CONGOLESE PARTICIPATION. TIMES BEING TOLD THAT ANY OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON MATTER IN DISPUTE WILL HAVE TO COME FROM AALC NEW YORK.

3. EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO REACH ZIMBA WHO IS TRAVELING INSIDE ZAMBIA TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER HE WAS ACCURATELY QUOTED IN TIMES. WE CONSIDER IT QUITE POSSIBLE ZIMBA WAS MISQUOTED. EMBOFF DID TALK TO ZCTU ASST GEN SECY SAMUEL LUNGU WHO UNFAMILIAR WITH ZIMBA STATEMENT AND THEREFORE UNABLE COMMENT UPON ACCURACY OF PRESS ACCOUNT. LUNGU WAS TOLD EMBASSY NOT PARTY TO DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN ZCTU AND AALC CONCERNING SEMINAR BUT STANDS READY SERVE AS CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION TO AALC IF THIS WOULD HELP CLEAR UP ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS THAT MIGHT EXIST. LUNGU AGREED INFORM ZIMBA OF EMBASSY'S INQUIRY AND WILLINGNESS BE OF ASSISTANCE.

4. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED CONVEY CONTENTS PARAS 1 - 3 ABOVE TO PAT O'FARRELL, JERRY FUNK, OR LES TRACHTMAN AT AALC NEW YORK OFFICE (TEL. 697-0404) OPENING OF BUSINESS TODAY.
NELSON

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